

HONORABLE ROBERT J. BRYAN

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA

LAWRENCE HARTFORD, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BOB FERGUSON, *et al.*

Defendants,

and

ALLIANCE FOR GUN  
RESPONSIBILITY,

Intervenor-Defendant.

No. 3:23-cv-05364-RJB

ORDER GRANTING ALLIANCE  
FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY'S  
MOTION TO INTERVENE AS  
DEFENDANT

[PROPOSED]

THIS MATTER came before the Court on Proposed Intervenor-Defendant Alliance for Gun Responsibility's (the "Alliance") Motion to Intervene as a Defendant ("Motion to Intervene"). The Court considered the following in deciding whether to grant the Motion:

1. The Alliance's Motion to Intervene;
2. Declaration of Kai A. Smith in Support of the Alliance's Motion to Intervene and the exhibit attached to it;

PROPOSED ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO  
INTERVENE - 1  
Case No. 3:23-cv-05364-RJB

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1           3. The other pleadings and papers on file in this matter; and

2           4. \_\_\_\_\_

3           The Alliance moves to intervene in this case as a defendant under both Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(a)  
4 and (b). The Court concludes that intervention as of right and permissive intervention are both  
5 warranted.

6           As to intervention as of right, the Court “must,” on timely motion, “permit anyone to  
7 intervene who . . . claims an interest relating to the property or transaction that is the subject of the  
8 action, and is so situated that disposing of the action may as a practical matter impair or impede  
9 the movant’s ability to protect its interest, unless existing parties adequately represent that  
10 interest.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(a). There are four requirements for intervention as of right: [1]  
11 timeliness; [2] an interest relating to the subject of the action; [3] practical impairment of the  
12 party’s ability to protect that interest; and [4] inadequate representation by the parties to the suit.  
13 *Idaho Farm Bureau Fed’n v. Babbitt*, 58 F.3d 1392, 1397 (9th Cir. 1995). This rule “is construed  
14 broadly in favor of the applicants.” *Id.*

15           First, the Court concludes that the Alliance’s Motion is timely and will not cause prejudice  
16 or delay.

17           Second, the Court concludes that the Alliance has a demonstrable interest in defending  
18 Engrossed Senate Bill 5078 (“ESSB 5078” or “Law”).

19           Third, the Alliance’s interests also may be significantly impaired by the outcome of this  
20 matter.

21           Fourth, the Alliance’s interests may not be fully represented by existing Defendants.

22           Thus, under Rule 24(a)’s principles liberally favoring intervention, the Court concludes  
23 that intervention as of right is warranted.

1 The Court also concludes that permissive intervention is appropriate. “On timely motion,  
 2 the court may permit anyone to intervene who . . . has a claim or defense that shares with the main  
 3 action a common question of law or fact.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(b). Further, “[i]n exercising its  
 4 discretion, the court must consider whether the intervention will unduly delay or prejudice the  
 5 adjudication of the original parties’ rights.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 24(b)(3). Thus, permissive intervention  
 6 is appropriate when (1) the applicant shares a common question of law or fact with the main action,  
 7 (2) the applicant’s motion is timely, and (3) the court has an independent basis for jurisdiction over  
 8 the applicant’s claims. *Freedom from Religion Found., Inc. v. Geithner*, 644 F.3d 836, 843 (9th  
 9 Cir. 2011).

10 First, the Court concludes that the Alliance’s proposed defense shares common questions  
 11 of law and fact.

12 Second, the timeliness requirement is met, as noted above.

13 Third, the final requirement of “independent jurisdictional grounds” is inapplicable where,  
 14 as here, the proposed intervenor does not raise new state-law claims in a federal question case.

15 The Court therefore concludes that each of the three requirements of Rule 24(b)(3) are met.  
 16 In such cases, a court has broad discretion in granting intervention. *Dep’t of Fair Emp’t & Hous.*  
 17 *v. Lucent Techs.*, 642 F.3d 728, 741 (9th Cir. 2011). In exercising that discretion, courts in the  
 18 Ninth Circuit generally examine several additional factors:

19 [T]he nature and extent of the intervenors’ interest, their standing to raise relevant  
 20 legal issues, the legal position they seek to advance, and its probable relation to the  
 21 merits of the case[,] . . . whether the intervenors’ interests are adequately  
 22 represented by other parties, . . . and whether parties seeking intervention will  
 23 significantly contribute to full development of the underlying factual issues in the  
 24 suit and to the just and equitable adjudication of the legal questions presented.

25 *Spangler v. Pasadena City Bd. of Ed.*, 552 F.2d 1326, 1329 (9th Cir. 1977).

1 The following *Spangler* discretionary factors weigh in favor of intervention: the Alliance's  
2 significant interests in defending the Law; the Alliance's legal position in defending the Law and  
3 its direct relation to the merits of the case; and the significant contributions the Alliance's  
4 participation may have on the full development of factual issues and just and equitable adjudication  
5 of legal questions.

6 For the reasons stated above, the Court concludes that the Alliance should be permitted to  
7 intervene as of right and permissively under Rule 24(a) and (b). The Court hereby ORDERS as  
8 follows:

- 9 1. The Alliance's Motion to Intervene as a Defendant is GRANTED.
- 10 2. The Alliance may intervene in this matter as of right and permissively.

11

12 IT IS SO ORDERED this \_\_\_\_ day of May, 2023.

13

14 HONORABLE ROBERT J. BRYAN  
United States District Court Judge

15 Presented by:

16 PACIFICA LAW GROUP LLP

17

18 s/ Kai A. Smith  
Kai A. Smith, WSBA #54749

19 *Attorney for Proposed Intervenor-Defendant*  
20 *Alliance for Gun Responsibility*